

Sketch

Spy debate lacks thrilling climax



Mark Lawson

THE highlight of the day at Westminster was a contribution from David Ashby (Con, Leics NW) on his attitude to men in uniform...

This was a reference to Michael Howard's proposal while opening the debate on the second reading of the Security Service Bill...

the genre of espionage fiction. Stand by for the novels and television series about cops and spies treading on each others' toes...

An inevitable character in spy novels these days is the old entrenched, trench-coated agent - the "spicrat" as Le Carré has it...

Howard spoke with the solid certainties typical of his empire: "The menace of organised crime is large and growing... the participation of the security services in that war will reinforce our ability to fight it effectively..."

Straw rose to reply. All his training, surely, as an operative for his side had taught him to resist such rhetoric. He had thought long and hard, he said, but had come to the conclusion that "we support the principle of this bill"...

Everyone was on the same side now, it seemed. The wall was down. Smiley and Karla holding hands across the rubble. David Ashby simply looked relieved. He had got through a debate on espionage without anyone making a joke about The Guy Who Loved Ma.

Tense standoff as Russian troops halt hostage convoy at Chechen border

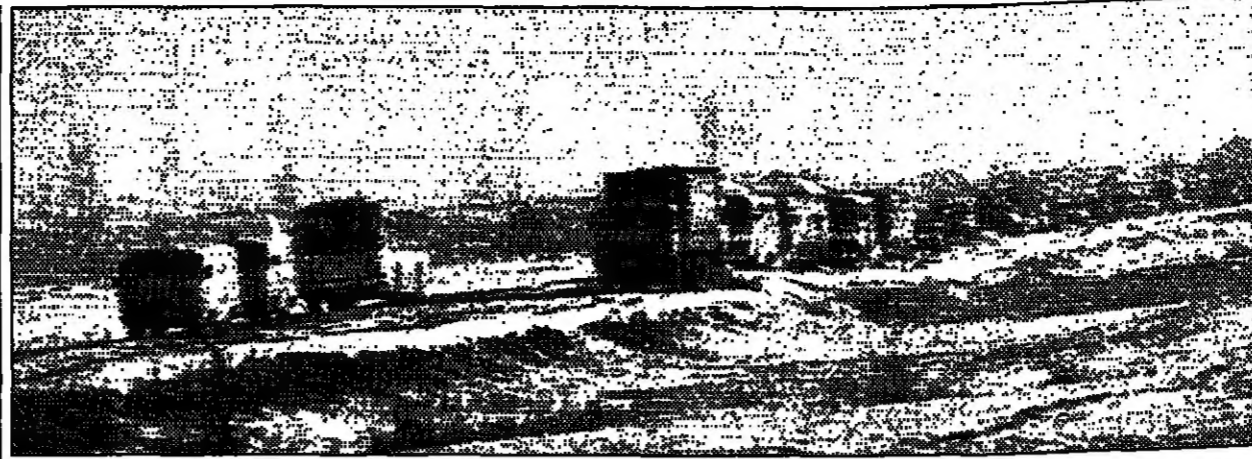
James Meek in Khasavyurt, Dagestan

TALKS between Chechen gunmen and Russian negotiators to free 130 hostages being held on buses in a border village were deadlocked last night...

Hundreds of Russian troops, including elite interior ministry special forces and tanks, were positioned in flat, snow-covered fields around the village of Pervomayskaya on the border between Chechnya and Dagestan...

Roads to the town were sealed off last night and journalists barred from entering. The more than 100 hostages included 110 women and children in Pervomayskaya...

Alexander Mikhailov, press spokesman for the Russian federal intelligence agency, told journalists at a crossroads near Pervomayskaya that the hostages were being held in nine buses by about 100 Chechen fighters...



A convoy carrying Chechen rebels and their hostages heads for Chechnya yesterday before being halted at the border

The people of Kizlyar were left feeling confused and betrayed yesterday as they contemplated the wrecked hospital by which the Chechen rebels in a community comprising various small North Caucasian Muslim ethnic groups was mixed with anger...

Respect for the Chechen rebels in a community comprising various small North Caucasian Muslim ethnic groups was mixed with anger that a town which sheltered thousands of Chechen refugees at the height of the war should be part of it now...

It became clear yesterday that at a meeting in the town on Saturday local officials accepted a danger existed of a rebel attack and placed armed police at both hospitals...

Yet no corresponding measures were taken by the military and as a result the police were the main casualties, losing at least seven men to the better armed rebels who carried heavy machine-guns, grenade launchers and even 21 small aircraft bombs.

Mr Malachayev said he had operated on two of about six wounded Chechen fighters, one of them an Arab. The 24-hour hostage ordeal left the hospital unusable, with windows broken, medical supplies, litter and syringes strewn along the corridors...

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The only hostage to have been shot in cold blood was a young member of a police special forces unit. He still lay on the hospital floor yesterday morning, undisturbed for fear of booby traps.

Lieutenant Magomed Sulmanov, aged 35, a policeman who lost a close friend in the fighting, said he had sheltered six Chechen refugees in his flat last year. "We fed them, dressed them, treated them like brothers and sisters. For them to come here like this is no way out of their situation."

However, freed hostages said their captors had treated them well, and had not stolen any of the hospital medicine. Magomed Malachayev, aged 33, duty surgeon when the rebels attacked, said the Chechen had shot the hostage only after Russian troops had refused to stop firing at the hospital with a heavy cannon...

Review

Unnerving images of paranoia

Robert Clark

Piranesi's Sublime Dreams Whitworth Art Gallery, Manchester

AT LAST a rare chance to see Giovanni Battista Piranesi's 18th century etchings of visionary paranoia, claustrophobia and absurdist vertigo. This is the first time I've had the dread-filled thrill of viewing the entire Imaginary Prisons series since their 1988 showing in Sheffield. How many images from more than 200 years ago seem so unnervingly up-to-the-minute? Half close your eyes, and their complex interlockings can appear like computer-generated fractals.

One is first confronted with the 1756 View of the Subterranean Foundations of the Mausoleum Erected by the Emperor Hadrian. Even here, Piranesi forces the viewer to take the most covered perspective on the monumental foundations. The structure towers impossibly into a sky hidden somewhere off the top of the picture. Half way up one wall a couple of lost souls teeter and gaze down with understandable dismay. We learn that in fact these foundations were deeply buried. Piranesi could never have seen them. Yet he unearths them with psychological insight.

The Carceri series follow 10 years later. So what was the artist up to with these weird

architectural imaginings? Was he haunted by the labyrinthine memories of his childhood in Venice? They are far from the usual monstrous nightmares, fed by medieval guilt or fanciful myth. Here are the solid building blocks of the real world, dissolved.

Piranesi scratches into the plates to provide a tactile, finger-mail-on-blackboard visual cringing. He builds up his darkened networks with thousands of fine parallel lines that twist with a near Op-Art vibrancy. The images are all hopeless cases. Passageways lead to dead-ends. Bridges drop one off in mid-span. Spiral stairways take the eye forever on down. Great chandeliers appear to swallow the light. Lonely figures drift. The shadows, of course, are the most live things here.

Piranesi's prints have a historical, prophetic edge. All the ambivalences of industrial progress are already precisely defined in these dark and torturous mazes. In the 19th century Coleridge, aspiring to the Romantic sublime, raved about the prints to be Guiney who, without ever seeing them, envisaged them: "With the same power of endless growth and self-reproduction did my architecture proceed in dreams."

In the mid 20th century, Aldous Huxley, fed by psychiatry and early psychedelia, saw in them "states of soul, whose reference is to confusion, to nightmare and angst, to incomprehension and panic bewilderment". It is telling that most of us, conditioned by the endless mazes of virtual spaces, still find in these old prints a trisom of déjà vu familiarity.

Bypass protest stops digger in new victory

Alex Bellis

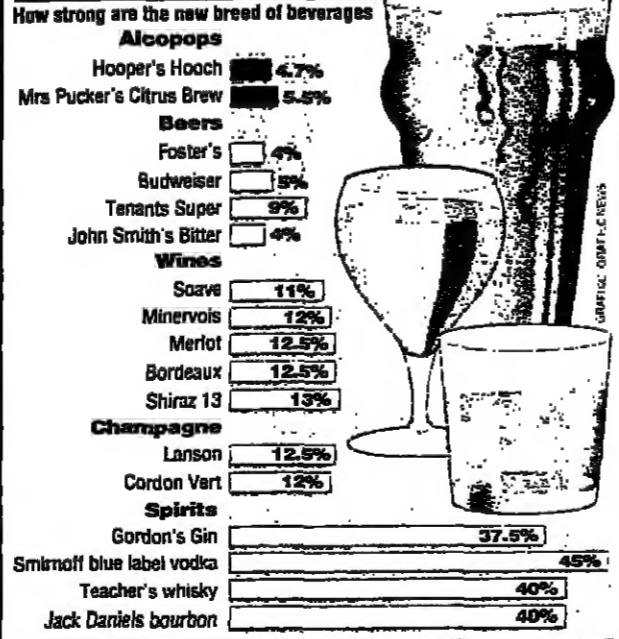
ANTI-ROADS protesters acclaimed another victory yesterday in the battle over the £100 million Newbury bypass after work was abandoned for the second day in a row.

Up to 20 protesters broke through a line of security guards and lay in the hole created by one of 30 or so uprooted trees. The 150 security guards, including reinforcements, outnumbered the protesters by about two to one.

Chief Inspector Frank Connor, of Hampshire police, announced the builders' decision to stop work for the day at the Tot Hill site.

New rules for 'alcopop' sales inadequate say campaigners

Alcopops



Holloway prisoner reveals shame she felt at being kept in shackles during labour

continued from page 1

Prison Service said: "If you are capable of getting up and walking downstairs and making a telephone call, there is a possibility you could escape."

Dr Eben considered it highly unlikely that a woman who was in any stage of labour would try to abscond. Annette was guarded throughout her labour by two prison officers, one male and one female, who left the delivery room only during intimate examinations.

Ms Lawrence-Beech had passed a photograph of Annette in shackles, answering a phone call from her husband less than an hour after the birth, to Channel 4. The television company took video film of the prisoner on the post-natal ward two days later, screened last Friday.

Annette's husband, who himself is serving four years in jail, has not yet been allowed to see his new baby daughter, nine days after the birth, although he and his wife have both applied for a visit on compassionate grounds.

Edward Pilkington

THE drinks industry yesterday agreed to tighten its rules on the marketing of so-called "alcopops" - alcoholic beverages aimed at young people - in a move which campaigners and health workers dismissed as inadequate.

The industry's seven largest manufacturers agreed to draw up a code of practice designed to regulate the way such products are named, labelled and promoted. The guidelines, they said, would ensure the drinks did not overtly appeal to children.

Concern that alcopops may be encouraging under-age drinking has grown rapidly since the first brands were launched last summer. The leading brand, Hooper's Hooch, now sells more than 2.5 million cans a week.

The second most popular brand, Two Dogs, will also be covered by the code as it is distributed by Whitbread, one of the seven signatories.

Most of the brands contain alcohol at between 4 and 5 per cent volume - slightly stronger than many beers, lagers and ciders. Some are as potent as 9 per cent.

Portman Group, a self-regulating body funded by the seven drinks manufacturers, its director, John Rae, the former headmaster of Westminster school, has criticised the introduction of the new brands as a case of the industry shooting itself in the foot.

Yesterday he said he feared alcoholic lemonades and colas could increase teenage drinking. "They have a sweet taste children are familiar with."

The proposed guidelines stipulate that imagery used in marketing the brands should not include characters likely to appeal to under-18s and that alcoholic content should be clearly displayed.

Nigel Griffiths, Labour's consumer affairs spokesman, cast doubt on the efficacy of the proposed code. "Most of these drinks are produced by manufacturers that will not have subscribed to the new regulations."

Mr Griffiths yesterday tabled questions in the Commons calling for a parliamentary debate on the issue. The Portman Group admitted the initiative did not cover most brands but said in terms of market sale it would apply to more than three-quarters of all cans sold.

The British Soft Drinks Association said terms it considers confusing, such as "alcoholic lemonade", "alcoholic cola" and "alcoholic soft drink" - should be banned.

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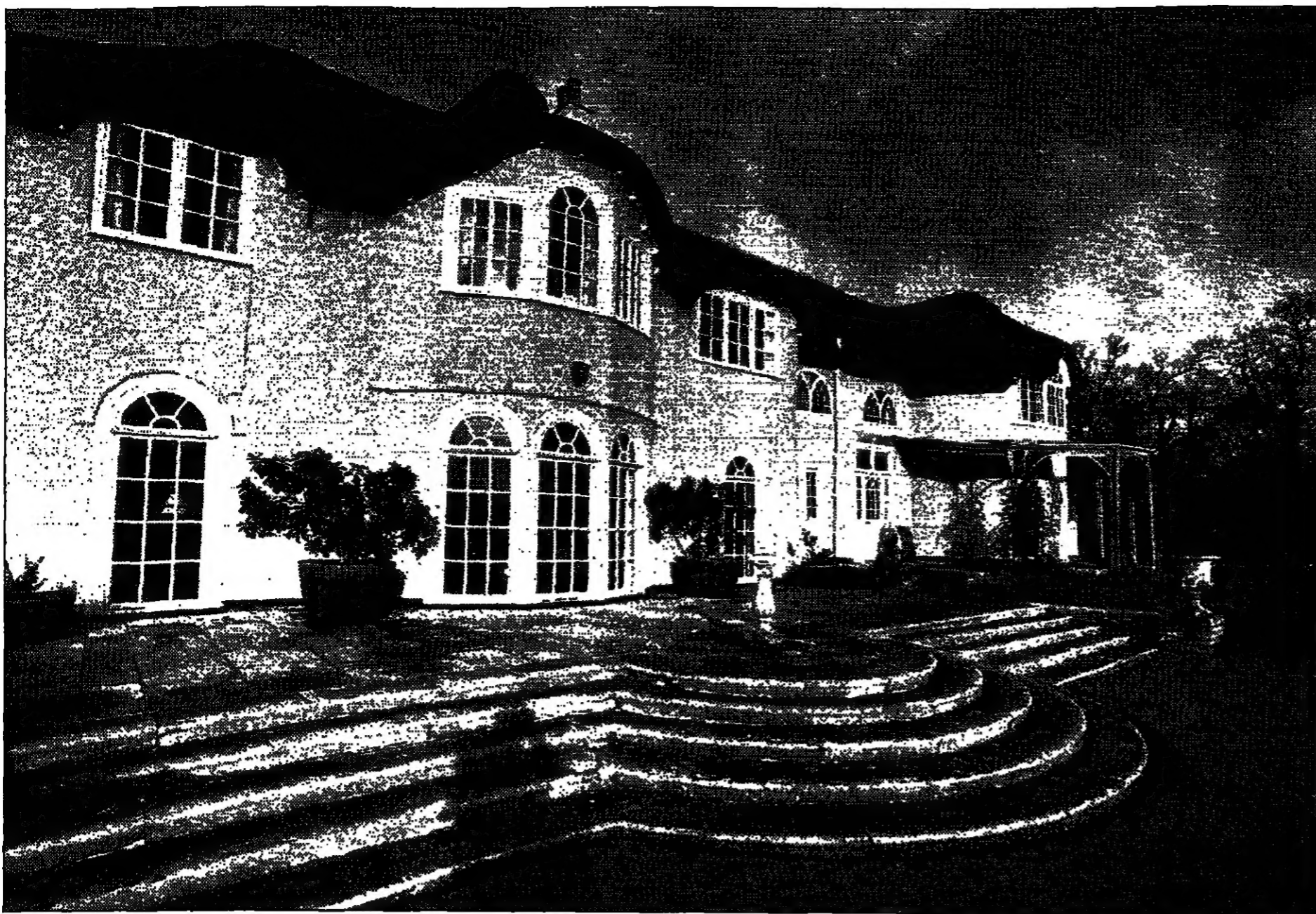
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Advertisement for Direct Line Personal Loans. Text: "You don't have to be a Direct Line customer to apply for a Personal Loan." "Want a cheaper Personal Loan? Don't bank on the big three banks." Includes a table comparing Direct Line, Barclays, and Abbey National on interest rates and repayments.

صكمان الامل



Going, going... Bishopswood at Fareham, Hampshire, which is 'cold and very expensive to maintain' but which is estimated to be worth about £1 million. PHOTOGRAPH: ROGER SAMBER

Bishop feeling draught happy to move

Sally Weale talks to a cleric caught up in belt-tightening moves by the Church of England



Dr Stevenson: no question of his being evicted

THE new Bishop of Portsmouth said yesterday he was perfectly happy to be giving up the sprawling 200-year-old residence that has been the home of the previous seven bishops for a much more modest house half a mile away.

Fareham, Hampshire. "It's part of an overall pruning down of expensive houses within the Church of England. We're not selling the family silver but this house is very expensive to maintain. The new house will be much more economical."

Reputed to be worth about £1 million, the house was originally built in the 17th century as a gardener's cottage in the grounds of the Black Brook Farm Estate. It was largely re-built and extended in the 1800s. It was bought by the Church of England in 1937 for a few thousand pounds as a home for Neville Lovett, the first Bishop of Portsmouth, after the creation of the diocese.

modest, the bishop's new home is hardly a shoebox. A substantial Victorian villa, it has seven bedrooms and a stable block, and stands in 1/4 of an acre of land. It was on the market for £300,000 and the commissioners are investing more in order to prepare it for Dr Stevenson.



New home... Carlton House, a substantial replacement now being renovated. PHOTOGRAPH: ROGER SAMBER

Shepherd drops PM's opt-out plan

John Carvel Education Editor

THE Education and Employment Secretary, Gillian Shepherd, yesterday took her revenge against the Prime Minister's meddling with her portfolio when she published an education bill abandoning all his ideas for encouraging more church schools to opt for grant maintained status.

maintained schools to mortgage land, buildings and other assets to raise private money for developments. Its provisions for nursery education will allow the Government to introduce a voucher scheme in spring 1997, offering parents of four-year-olds a certificate worth £1,100 which can be exchanged for five half-days a week of pre-school education at council or private nurseries or play groups.

Sinn Fein hope on weapons destruction

David Sharrock Ireland Correspondent

THE IRA might be prepared to allow an independent third party to witness the destruction of its weapons by its own volunteers. Sinn Fein has told the international body examining the issue of illegal arms.

The 29-page Sinn Fein paper sends out a number of confusing signals. At one point it says: "There is no possibility in Sinn Fein's view of a surrender of weapons. A withdrawal of British troops and the creation of an unarmed police service must be part of a general demilitarisation of the situation."

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Derbyshire The Brandon Hall	£72

and HERE

The South of England

Alderton The Swan Inn	£103
Abingdon The Swan Inn	£103
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NHS errors 'appal' MPs

David Brindis, Social Services Correspondent

HEALTH workers and managers found guilty of serious errors are being allowed to keep their jobs when they should be sacked, MPs complained yesterday.

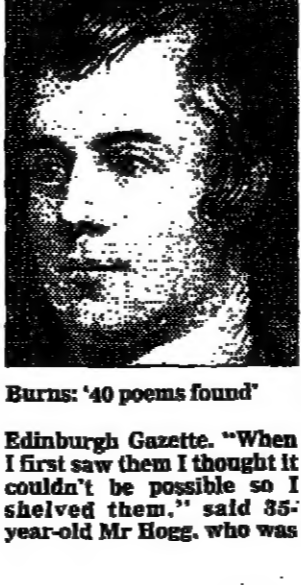
servative MP for Rugby and Kenilworth, said: "Some of the cases brought before this committee are frankly appalling. I am genuinely worried about patients passing through these hospitals on future occasions."

ferent death certificates, one of which was torn up in front of the family. Members of the committee protested that the same issues seemed to recur year after year.

Author finds poetic turn-up for the books on Burns

Erland Clouston

ANTHOLOGIES of the work of Robert Burns may have to be radically revised after a claim that up to 40 of his poems have lain unnoticed in yellowing newspaper files.



Burns: '40 poems found'

preparing a book on Burns' world view. "Then as I worked on, I thought Jesus Christ, it looks as though this is true."

Labour's women MPs insist equality push must go on

Rebecca Smithers Political Correspondent

LABOUR'S women MPs demand a commitment from the party's National Executive Committee that it will seek fresh measures to get more women into Parliament should it drop the all-women shortlists policy.

Harriet Harman, the shadow health secretary and a member of the "Emily's List" group backing more seats for women, said yesterday that Mr Hattersley's response was "not helpful".

Today's... and... determine... when it... physical

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Team strips... Wigan rugby league stars Va'aiga Tuigamala (above), Shaun Edwards (far right) and Henry Paul in action wearing Breathe Rights

Snoring cure keeps athletes' noses ahead

John Duncan on a new go-faster strip

SPORTS stars keen to head off their rivals are increasingly turning to a small piece of plastic which sticks on to the nose and can improve oxygen intake by 5 per cent. The device — originally developed as a cure for snoring — looks like a plaster when in use and works by opening the nasal passages with springy plastic strips backed by adhesive. Called Breathe Right, it is imported from the United



States, where it has passed stringent medical tests and is widely used in American football. It is being tested at Wigan rugby league club thanks to their sprint coach, Chris Butler, who came across the device on a fact-finding trip to America in September. "What it does is flare the nostrils, stopping them flattening and allowing a slightly larger volume of oxygen per effort of breath-

ing. That's my contention although it's yet to be proven to help," he said. "It's useful in the aerobic sports and the [Andorra-based] Festina professional cycling team have also tried it and found it useful. The anecdotal evidence is that there is an effect but we are in the business of winning and anything that is legal we will look at. So far it looks good." Wigan players Va'aiga Tuigamala, Martin Hall,

Shaun Edwards and Henry Paul are among those who have been enthusiastic about their nasal assistance. "Martin Offiah tried it too," said Mr Butler. "but I think he wanted one that didn't stand out so much. "I think they'll have to bring out a darker version if they want him to wear one, though it doesn't bother any of the black American footballers." In the US, 50 per cent of

American football players are said to wear the device, which costs around £6 for 10 and will be launched here in February after tests at Leeds's Carnegie College. "It's especially good for rugby league," said Mr Butler. "because there are some noses in the game that, let's say, have suffered from previous heavy contacts. But there is no reason why it shouldn't be used in other 'marathon' sports."

News in brief

Treasury is tardy in paying bills

THE Treasury is by far the worst government department for paying bills, the Treasury minister, Angela Knight, has admitted in a letter to Labour's small business minister, Barbara Roche. Mrs Knight, Economic Secretary to the Treasury, revealed that 26 per cent of bills have been paid late so far in the current financial year, 1995/96. Her reply corrected an earlier answer to a parliamentary question indicating that the Treasury's record in 1994/95 was 18 per cent. "I am very sorry to say that my officials made an error... they now report that 18 per cent of invoices were not paid within 30 days in 1993/94, 25 per cent in 1994/95, and 26 per cent in 1995/96 so far," she wrote to Mrs Roche. After the Treasury, the departments with the poorest record for settlement of their suppliers' bills in the current financial year are the Department of Trade and Industry, with 16 per cent, and the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Foods, with 14.5 per cent. — Rebecca Smithers

Basildon youths in court

TWO youths arrested during police investigations into the death of Leah Betts appeared in court yesterday on drugs charges. Stephen Smith, aged 18, of Basildon, Essex, and a 17-year-old from nearby Laindon, were remanded on bail by Southend magistrates to appear on March 6 for committal to the crown court. Both were charged with that between November 5 and 12 they were concerned with each other in supplying ecstasy tablets. Stephen Smith alone was also charged that on November 11 he supplied four ecstasy tablets. No pleas were taken, and the court ordered that the 17-year-old should not be identified. Bail was granted on condition both defendants live at home, although Mr Smith was given permission to go on a college trip to France. Leah collapsed during her 18th birthday party at her home in the village of Latchingdon on November 11 after taking one ecstasy tablet she bought for £12 in Basildon. — Alan Watkins

Cash appeal for landmarks

MILLIONAIRE Peter de Savary will put £1 million of his own cash into a new company to buy John O'Groats and Land's End if enough other people come forward to raise the remainder of the asking price. Mr de Savary bought the two landmarks in 1989 and spent £8 million redeveloping a hotel at Land's End before selling them in 1991 to a New Zealand company, Gulf Resources Pacific, which has now put them back on the market for £5.5 million. Yesterday he said: "I want to set up a public limited company to own and manage Land's End and the John O'Groats House Hotel. This will give everyone in Britain the chance to own a stake in two of the most famous landmarks in the country. I do not want to own them privately but I am prepared to pour all my energy and enthusiasm into turning them around, and I will put up to £1 million into the kitty to buy the properties."

'Put road ragers on couch'

MOTORISTS convicted of "road rage" offences should undergo counselling before being allowed back behind the wheel, the RAC has told the Home Office. Offenders should have to attend 10 two-hour sessions — first with a psychologist and then in group therapy with other offenders. "Road rage is not supposed, officially, to exist, but we think it is a very serious problem," said a spokesman for the motoring organisation, Edmund King. A Home Office spokesman said: "All road rage is aggressive and violent behaviour, and there are plenty of laws to deal with that."

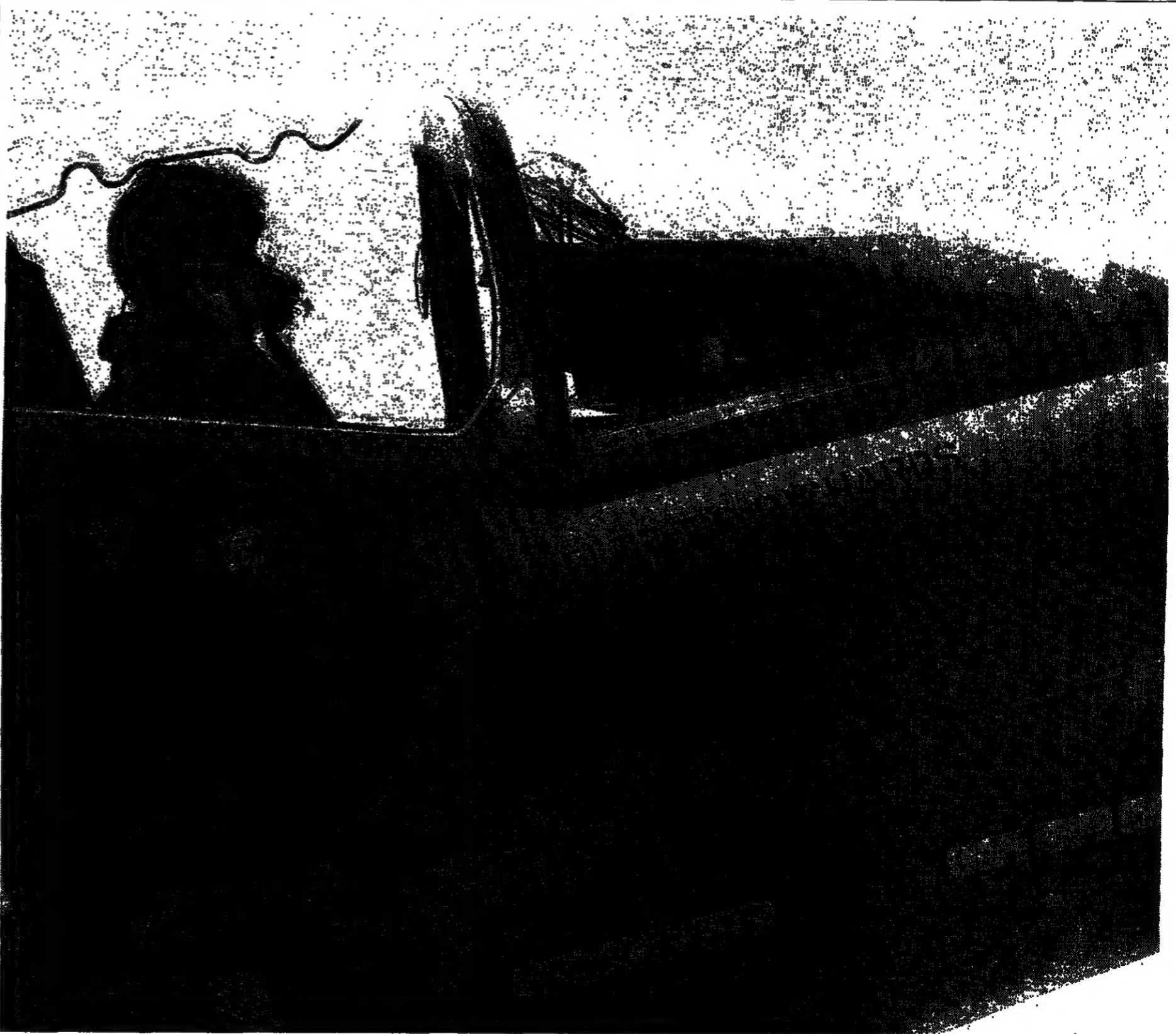
Unions told 2pc is too much

UNIONS representing 1.5 million council workers were warned yesterday that a pay rise of more than 2 per cent would be "difficult to cope with" without risking jobs and services. Local government employers said many authorities in Britain could only afford any pay increase by cutting jobs and services. Talks in London over the pay rise were adjourned and will resume on January 29.

Water takeover demanded

EIGHTY Labour MPs yesterday called on the Environment Secretary, John Gummer, to seek a High Court order to take over drought-troubled Yorkshire Water until a new board and management structure was in place. They have tabled a motion urging the move because the "disastrous record of Yorkshire Water and the ensuing hiatus in its board and management structure presents an urgent and continuing threat to the water and sewerage service in the county".

Today's generation of world leaders looks increasingly old and fragile, though determined to resist the pressures for glasnost when it comes to their physical fitness for power.



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6 WORLD NEWS

Alex Duval Smith in Jarnac reports on a town's attempts to keep its favourite uncle's funeral simple

Farewell to 'a somebody'

THE people of Jarnac like to say they are as modest as their grey stone houses. But gossips were hard at work in the municipal cemetery where "François" will be laid to rest today in the last space in the Mitterrand family grave.

Where are they going to put Danielle when she dies? asked Andrée Faure, aged 63, yesterday. She was visiting her father's grave, beside the drab memorial which houses the remains of 11 members of François Mitterrand's family, including his parents.

Bastille rally honours Mitterrand

THOUSANDS of mourners gathered in the Place de la Bastille in Paris last night in honour of François Mitterrand — the same square where 1 million left-wingers celebrated his presidential victory nearly 15 years ago.

A huge black-and-white portrait of a waving Mitterrand was mounted on scaffolding. Loudspeakers played solemn Bach and Beethoven pieces and Mozart opera arias as thousands of people streamed out of the Métro and adjoining streets under a veil of light rain.

Abel Guy, where Mitterrand was born. Prince Charles and heads of state will attend a solemn mass of remembrance at the Cathedral of Notre Dame in Paris, to be held at the same time.

Mrs Mare said the timetable was in keeping with traditions established on the death of presidents Pompidou and De Gaulle. But a steady stream of local people signing a book of remembrance in the town hall yesterday were visibly dazed.

It is as if the events were happening here but at the same time somewhere else, said Eliane Boujnt-Clochard, aged 73. Trembling with emotion, she wrote her message in the book of remembrance.

While the people from Paris made plans, the people of Jarnac were warmly recounting stories of François and his seven siblings.

As a boy, Marc Saunier, aged 78, played table-tennis with the president-to-be, Jeanne Bourdage, aged 78, who went to primary school with Mitterrand, said their teacher had predicted he would become "a bishop or a president".

Younger people were oblivious of the gentle childhood memories which were being steamrollered by state pomp. Claudine Roche, aged 25, one of two local florists, had not slept since Monday morning.



French security officers hold a briefing at the Mitterrand family tomb in the Jarnac cemetery where the former president will be buried today. PHOTOGRAPH: MICHEL LUPONZET

EU tells Croatia to enforce pact

EUROPEAN UNION governments are increasingly incensed at the failure to stop local Croat militias undermining the Bosnian peace agreement in Mostar. Haas Koschnick, the EU-appointed administrator of the ethnically divided southern city, yesterday threatened a complete withdrawal of his civil and police forces later this year unless communal violence ends.

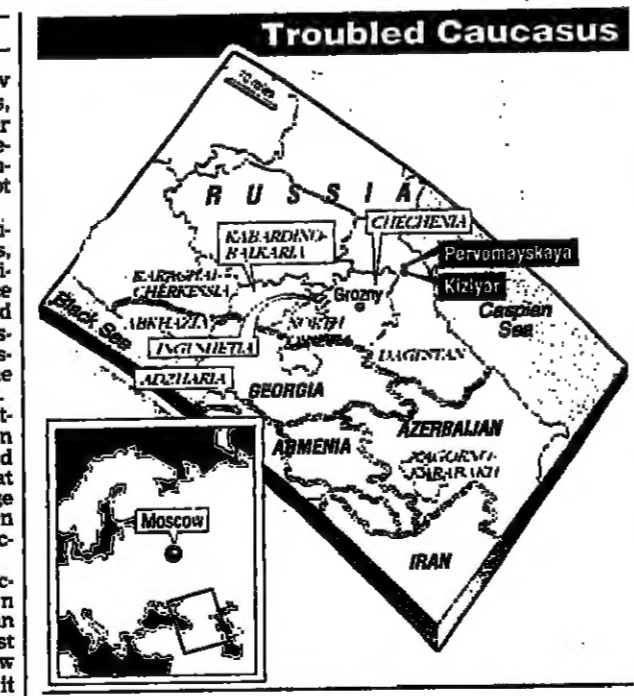
Caucasian tinderbox needs only a spark to start a conflagration

FOR Dzhokhar Dudayev and his rebel fighters, the choice of a border post in neighbouring Dagestan as the scene of confrontation with Russia was not accidental.

Dagestan is a loose patchwork of 40 ethnic minorities, all of which jockey for position. This precarious balance of rival nationalities could easily be upset should Russian troops open fire on hostilities from, for example, the Avar or Lezgin communities.

Although the Avars are bitterly hostile to the Chechen diaspora in Dagestan, and may yet carry out the threat they made yesterday to stage revenge attacks on Chechen families, Mr Dudayev's tactics are clever.

It was an argument at least partly accepted by Western strategists, despite their condemnation of the tactics used. Opinion is shifting about the effect that the quagmire military operation has had on this frontier zone, a vital conduit for gas and oil pipelines between the Caspian and Black Seas.



What goes on is enough to make Virginia Bottomley hurl herself over the battlements alongside Tosca. Forget the posturing of Pavarotti and the tantrums of the three tenors, it's the management who stamp their feet at the Royal Opera House.

World news in brief

Britons kidnapped in Indonesia

FOUR Britons are among seven Westerners who have been kidnapped in a remote Indonesian province, according to an army spokesman in the capital, Jakarta.

FT reporter held in Nigeria

BRITAIN yesterday demanded that Nigeria immediately release a Financial Times journalist who was arrested in Ogoniland in the south-east of the country.

Haider faces legal action

PROMINENT Austrian intellectuals, entertainers and Jews are seeking legal action against the right-wing populist Jörg Haider (right), for alleged neo-Nazi activity after he praised members of the infamous Waffen SS.

Court ups Noir's sentence

AN APPEALS court in Lyon yesterday increased the sentences of three defendants in a political corruption case symbolising high living by French politicians during the 1980s.

US soldier on rape charge

A UNITED STATES soldier based in South Korea was arrested yesterday on charges of attempted rape after he allegedly broke into a woman's apartment, a US military statement said.

Crash toll put at 350

THE international relief group Médecins Sans Frontières said yesterday that at least 350 people had died in Zaire when a cargo plane ploughed into a crowded Kinshasa market, well above the previously announced official death toll.

Ex-communists sell discos

DESPERATELY short of cash, Italy's former communists, the Democratic Socialist Party (PDS) have put their most profitable assets, two discotheques, on the market.

China is bury the... Indian law female in... Unbe... believ...

صحة من الاجل

Rifkind pleads for Beijing to end feud with Patten

China is asked to bury the hatchet

Andrew Higgins in Beijing

THE Foreign Secretary, Malcolm Rifkind, will plead with China today to stop treating Chris Patten, the governor of Hong Kong and former Conservative Party chairman, like a political untouchable.

Ending a feud with Mr Patten — condemned by China as "a serpent, a whore and a sinner for all millennia" — is essential to calm jitters in Hong Kong and fears of a turbulent handover of British rule, officials said.

In talks yesterday, China's prime minister, Li Peng, seemed unmoved by warnings of an exodus in the final 18 months of British rule. "This does not matter," he said.

Mr Li's comments, broadcast on China's national television news, followed an appeal by Mr Rifkind to stop what British officials called a "haemorrhaging of confidence" in the colony.

In particular Britain wants China to stop treating Mr Patten like a leper. On his first day in China on Monday, Mr Rifkind urged its foreign minister, Qian Qichen, to open dialogue with Mr Patten, a message to be repeated in talks later today with China's president, Jiang Zemin.

Influriated by modest political reforms, Chinese officials leave receptions early to avoid having to meet Mr Patten, and there have been suggestions that Beijing wants him excluded from the 1997 handover ceremony.

"They have made their point, now they have to make a decision," a British official said. "There has been a clear deterioration [in relations over Hong Kong], it cannot be regarded as just a blip."

Mr Rifkind met the Chinese leader just hours after Channel 4 broadcast a documentary alleging the use in Chinese orphanages of "dying rooms" to cull unwanted infants. Beijing has condemned the film as a "vicious attack on China."

But yesterday it muted its anger, turning instead on the United States over its policy towards Taiwan.

"The Taiwan issue, if not handled properly, will exert a very destructive role on the development of bilateral relations," President Jiang told the former US president, George Bush, who is visiting the country.

Mr Rifkind said he asked about conditions in China's orphanages and raised the case of the jailed dissident Wei Jingsheng.

"Neither the [Chinese] prime minister nor the for-

ign minister objected to the fact that I raised these subjects," Mr Rifkind said. "But they did not necessarily agree with what I was saying."

Britain has a direct interest in China's human rights record, as the jailing of Mr Wei for 14 years and other episodes unsettle Hong Kong. Applications for emigrant visas to Canada — the destination of choice for Hong Kong professionals — increased by 70 per cent last year.

But Mr Li seemed unmoved by British arguments that China could calm unease by talking to the governor, dropping plans to dismantle Hong Kong's elected Legislative Council and watering down a Bill of Rights.

"We have full confidence in the stable transition in Hong Kong and smooth transfer of power," he said. "We believe that, as long as Hong Kong keeps a good investment and trade environment, then those who have left will return."

But he did repeat China's commitment in the 1984 Joint Declaration to allow the post-1997 Hong Kong Special Administrative Region a high degree of autonomy. "The central government will not send a single official to take up office in the government of the SAR. We will not take away a single penny of Hong Kong's money."



Uphill task... Foreign Secretary Malcolm Rifkind tours the Forbidden City in Beijing yesterday before his talks with China's prime minister, Li Peng. PHOTOGRAPH: GREG BAKER

Bitter brewery rift leaves Pakistan in low spirits

Gerald Bourke in Islamabad

A BITTER battle over Pakistan's leading brewery has caused an acute shortage of locally made beer and spirits in this supposedly "dry" Islamic state, allowing smugglers from India, its arch-enemy, and the Arabian Gulf to cash in.

Murree Brewery, in Rawalpindi, is the country's oldest industrial company, established in 1861 to quench the thirst of British troops across the Indian sub-continent.

The company is facing its biggest challenge. It has been more or less out of action for the past seven months since Sindh province, which consumed 70 per cent of its sales of beer and spirits, banned "imports" of alcohol from Punjab, Murree's home province. Sindh said the ban was justified as the Punjab government had failed to pay overdue taxes on alcohol to Sindh.

Murree took the case to the supreme court, which ordered Punjab to pay its arrears and Sindh to allow unhindered access to Murree's products.

Punjab paid up, but Sindh defied the court's ruling. "The Sindh government showed no respect for the highest court in the land," said Minoor Bhandara, Murree's chairman.

The row has cost prime minister Benazir Bhutto's cash-strapped government millions of rupees in revenue. It has also fuelled rumours that powerful elements in her administration — her controversial husband, the businessman Asif Zardari, in particular — stand to gain handsomely from the chaos in the lucrative drinks trade.

Sources in the drinks

trade believe the ban, which was relaxed recently to allow a trickle of Murree's products into Sindh, was designed to facilitate Byram Avari, a wealthy hotelier. He has a longstanding ambition to build a brewery and distillery in Karachi, the Sindh capital.

Mr Avari denies his project — which has been halted by a legal appeal from Murree Brewery — is sponsored by Mr Zardari. "Mr Zardari is a friend. What does that prove? I'm also on first-name terms with many of the leaders of the opposition," he said.

Only the country's religious minorities, which account for less than 3 per cent of the estimated 130 million population, can legally drink. Some are obliged to plead alcoholism to secure their entitlements.

But many Muslims, including members of the country's elite, imbibe the best of imported booze with impunity behind closed doors.

The Koran condemns drinking and makes it clear that Muslims would be better off avoiding alcohol altogether.

Mr Bhandara, having failed to get the supreme court to honour its verdict — and when his contacts, such as Mr Zardari, proved to no avail — appealed to Ms Bhutto in an advertisement in one of the country's newspapers.

The advertisement pointed to the Sindh government's refusal to grant access to Murree's products, the loss of jobs and tax revenue this entailed, and the smuggling it encouraged.

Lesser victims of the squabble, however, will also have to wait for the court to enforce the verdict to determine how best to slake their thirst.

Indian law aims to curb female infanticide

Suzanne Goldenberg in New Delhi

INDIA has banned the misuse of ultrasound, amniocentesis and other tests used to determine the sex of a fetus, in an attempt to limit deliberate abortions of girls.

The law, which took effect this month, carries a heavy fine and a three-year jail term for parents and doctors involved in the abortion of a healthy female fetus.

It follows last year's ban on clinics that specialise in determining the sex of fetuses, and restricts the use of such tests to detecting genetic diseases.

Women's activists argue that laws are not enough to save baby girls in a society where female children are viewed primarily as a financial burden. A social transformation is required.

In many Indian communities, custom demands that each stage in a girl's life — must be marked by a series of costly rituals.

Increasing commercialism has magnified the cost of weddings especially. Although dowries are illegal, grooms' families are said to be ever more greedy, with sons in the civil service commanding a

price stretching into hundreds of thousands of rupees.

At the same time, people want fewer children and are unwilling to have large families just to satisfy the desire for a son.

Social activists and village midwives say abortion of girl fetuses is the modern, middle-class variant of an ancient practice of female infanticide.

In the northern states of Haryana and Punjab, where fertile lands guarantee a standard of living well above the national average, the last decade has seen a boom in ultrasound clinics, identified by neon signs on the main roads of market towns. In these areas, there are already only 86 girls for 100 boys.

At the other end of the country, in the southern state of Tamil Nadu, surveys by women's groups claim half of all newborn girls are killed. Girls are most at risk if their mother already has a daughter. The women say they have little choice but to sacrifice their daughters.

"My husband would not have left if it had been a boy," said Amarvati, a villager in Kannapuram, Tamil Nadu. "I had to kill it. There was no alternative. God made a plan

for us to suffer, but we killed the baby and escaped."

Across India, there is little reliable data on how many babies are sacrificed to the cult of the boy child. But between 1981 and 1991, the number of females per 1,000 males declined from 934 to 929, according to the latest census. In developed countries there are 1,050 females for every 1,000 males.

While the proliferation of abortion clinics may be more visible, female infanticide is probably more widespread. Infant mortality figures do not take account of the tiny corpses buried secretly in the backyard or dumped in the jungle. Some reports claim that in drought-stricken and poor areas, it is a miracle if a second daughter survives.

It is generally agreed that female infanticide is spreading from upper-caste communities to areas where daughters once were tolerated.

All across the country, the methods of dispatch are similar: poisoning by locally made concoctions; suffocation by forcing a few grains of unhusked rice down tiny throats; starvation or neglect. Some babies are buried alive. Every village has someone who is expert at killing.

brief
Kidnapped
Asia

held in Nigeria

es
in



Noir's sentence

on rape charge

part at 350

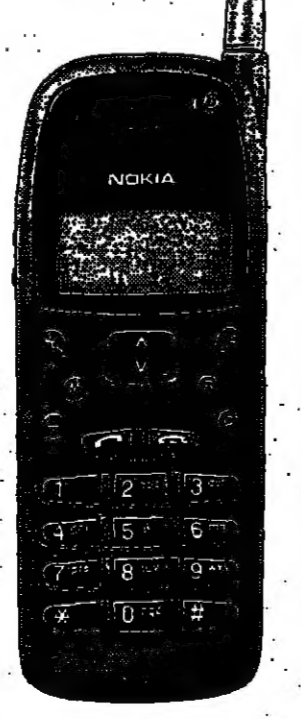
artists sell discs

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Diary
Matthew Norman

I AM sad to learn from the Daily Telegraph that Lord Colyton has died once again at the age of 94. The Telegraph thought it was all over for the former Colonial Affairs Minister on December 28, and ran the first obituary, but an apology later revealed that it wasn't over. It is now, though, and the second obituary appeared yesterday. Intriguingly, in the 13 days between the two obits, Lord Colyton's reputation in print has markedly improved. Obituary One began by dwelling on how, in 1954, his outspoken pronouncement, apparently ruling out independence for Cyprus, "sparked off fierce riots in the island, and entailed the deaths of many people."

Disease which is crippling our politics

Commentary
Hugo Young

THE offence many Labour people take against women-only shortlists of nominees for parliamentary seats has almost nothing to do with the law. Would that such scrupulous regard did possess the people's party! On the contrary, any passing concern that the law is being overhauled by the Blair government is overshadowed by the certainty that it will now be abandoned. The law turns out to be mostly a pretext, serving murky passions.

ate, foreshadowing a monstrous regiment of feminists entering the Commons on a cloud of political correctness. It is not for this that stakeholder democracy was born. Some of Mr Blair's people have more precise objections. They worry about the kind of women who have sometimes been attracted into the lists. These are, appealing to say, "political" women, activists as well as feminists, very possibly lefties, and rather less likely than a superannuated coal miner to perform as reliable lobby fodder. If there is a distinguishing characteristic of Labour women politicians it is that few of them — having faced a long struggle for recognition — will feel their prime duty to feed themselves without demur to the party whips.

to abandoning it after the next election. All the same, I regret that it was challenged so soon. The objectors were within their rights, but the gains from a brief, one-off spell of positive discrimination, pushing into Parliament perhaps 30 women who would otherwise have the odds stacked against them, would be great.

What the Leeds industrial tribunal decreed comes as a mighty relief to male chauvinists

Labour Party or in the truly monstrous regiment of defunct sexist groups who run the Tory Party up and down the country. As a result, with a minority of brave exceptions, women as a class are still deterred from attempting to get into politics. Of the many jubilant comments made on Tuesday's judgment, none better reveals the bad faith of many who pretend to oppose discrimination than the coarse injunction to women to "win on merit and in an open contest". Being excluded from the contest, they cannot put

You don't give us the Earth, we'll take it



George Monbiot

THE Newbury protesters faced an almost impossible situation. They knew that 400 security guards were due to move on to the route of the bypass on Tuesday, yet only 30 people were on hand to stop them. Reinforcements were coming from other parts of the country but wouldn't arrive in time.

lightly over problems the rest of us would see as insuperable. Their self-education has spawned a multitude of monstrosities, Millennialist fantasies, cargo cults, conspiracy theories, tales of manifestations and alien abductions crackle around the camp fires. Political awakening and half-baked religious syncretism often seem to be inseparable — last year a Hopi Indian woman was trying to discourage activists from bastardising her people's rituals. While most of society is afflicted with an excess of discrimination, the protest camps seem to suffer from too little.

CARTOON drawing of a grinning little boy, one of several characters who appear up the wards of a children's unit in Dundee's Ninewells Hospital, has been censored after an unnamed visitor to the ward complained that his bare bottom might be dangerous. Staff have now felt-tipped a pair of shorts over his buttocks.

It is his new diet that occupies my friend Terry Major-Ball when I call. Terry was taken ill before Christmas with high blood sugar, and has been advised to drop two stone in weight. In truth, he sounds a little glum. "It's a very strict diet, and it's not easy for me. When I get agitated, I'm a terrible nibbler. Now I can only nibble on carrots. Still, I'm getting used to it."

MEANWHILE, just when everything seemed to be going smoothly for Terry's little brother, the Prime Minister has made a rare mistake. "While you were there," he told Mr Tony Blair on Tuesday, regarding the trip to Japan, "you might perhaps have been better occupied if you had travelled on the privatised Japanese railway, which you and your colleagues oppose."

I AM pleased to note that my report last week about the Bookings, whose winsome catchphrase is "It's good to stalk", has also caught the imaginations of others. Yesterday, it turned up in both a Sun leader and a column in the Daily Mirror. Taking into account its mysterious appearance in last Thursday's Independent, the total now stands at four.



Swing of the handbag

LADY Thatcher is "back in town". What excitement for the media pundits and what gloom for the electoral tacticians of No 10. Whatever she does or says is dissected by commentators using their own prejudices. Her protestation of innocence and unconditional support for John Major will be disregarded.

Margaret Thatcher re-emerges tonight to give a major speech which is intended to keep the Tories on the right path. John Fen assesses the significance of what she will say



The Budget has been a reasonable success and Keith Clarke must now hope he can hold the line with no further changes in taxation or public spending. The signs are for a modest revival in consumer spending and an improvement in political fortunes. Once Tory poll ratings improve — even modestly — the acrimony and neurosis at Westminster will abate. I welcome Margaret Thatcher's clear message tonight that there should be an early turn in our electoral fortunes.

She also emphasises the importance of firm rhetoric and of being able to convey a sense of political firmness and direction. This message can grate, particularly with those fastidious enough to compare the Thatcher achievement closely with the rhetoric that, however, in Westminster yesterday. Her government presided over substantial economic changes; cut government borrowing, reformed the unions and carried out privatisation. This was accompanied by a self-confident assertion of government objectives

and an ability to convince the public that she knew what she wanted and would not be pushed around by union leaders or foreign potentates. To many Tories this recollection of Margaret Thatcher is a nostalgic memory, and one that has faded from practical politics. The challenge for Thatcher is how the Conservatives can renew their policies, keeping them rightwing, contemporary, and not merely an echo of the eighties.

Tonight's speech, in dealing with economic and social affairs, again warns against the Thatcherite legacy of its uncertainty about kind of organisation it wishes to be. They are trying to decide whether Thatcherism has a role. Her 15-year reign might be an unprecedented period of power and appeal to define a new political economy to which all political parties should accommodate. But she has dimmed. When she returns to the party, she will be revived rather than collapsed. Yet in the last three years the Tories have plummeted to fresh depths of unpopularity which Thatcher never touched, even in the final months before her overthrow. The old Toryism of Macmillan and Heath is unrecognisable. The question which the party now faces is whether Thatcher's legacy provides what Gamble calls "the basis for an alternative tradition".

Why the lad's not for returning again

MARGARET Thatcher's interventions in Conservative politics bring diminishing returns. Every year at party conferences the standing ovation gets a little shorter and the acclamations a touch more effortful. Yet she remains the pivotal figure of contemporary Tory politics. She will never return as leader, but to dismiss her as burned-out is completely wrong. As Andrew Gamble writes in the current New Left Review, the battle over the

Thatcherite legacy is a battle over the party's future. It is a battle about its uncertainty about kind of organisation it wishes to be. They are trying to decide whether Thatcherism has a role. Her 15-year reign might be an unprecedented period of power and appeal to define a new political economy to which all political parties should accommodate. But she has dimmed. When she returns to the party, she will be revived rather than collapsed.

Thatcherism destroyed the Conservative Party. Thatcherism's triple obsession with possessive individualism, anti-Europeanism, and the destruction of traditional institutions generated a heady decade of popular enthusiasm. Yet in the end, these critics believe, it undermined Conservatism from inside. The party was purged to destruction by permanent revolution. The landmarks of traditional Toryism were obliterated. Hence the party's current predicament — only 28 per

cent support in this morning's ICM opinion poll. But an increasingly influential segment of the party believes the opposite. They think the revolution did not go far enough. They sense the absence of a coherent anti-Thatcherite alternative. Many of the next generation of Tory MPs — the people who will fill the places left by the defectors and the retirees — long to reconnect with the Thatcher years. So when the old leader speaks, they are powerless to resist.

Mass'ari Must Stay! Public launch meeting of the campaign to stop the deportation of Saudi Opposition leader Prof. Muhammed Al Massari. Monday 15th January 1996 Committee Room 14, House of Commons Westminster 7.00pm Speakers Liberal Democrat Peer Lord Avebury George Galloway MP Muhammed Al Massari And others... All Welcome

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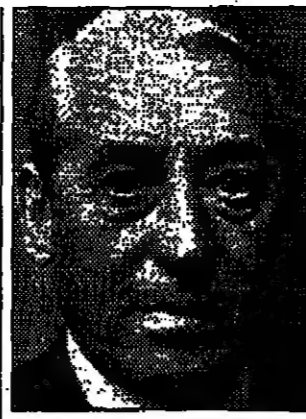
diary

Lord Colyton

Last act to play the Empire

LORD Colyton, better known as Henry Hopkinson, who has died aged 94, repeatedly blighted a distinguished diplomatic and political career by his refusal to give up the imperial delusion...

ber, held a pro-Smith meeting supported by the far-right Monday Club and the semi-fascist Greater Britain Movement. He made two very pro-Smith speeches in the Lords in 1965, later sharply attacking Britain's seizure of the rebel regime's Rhodesia funds...



Colyton... sacked by Eden

ter, and a half-American mother. At Eton he began his fabulous collection of spurs. He went on to Trinity College, Cambridge, and entered the Foreign Office in 1924. After his first posting to Washington he married his first wife, Alice, the daughter of a Princeton professor...

rowly ret, 1950. On the recommendation of Lytton and Eden, he was named as his Overseas Secretary when the spurs took over in 1954. He became Minister of State for Colonial Affairs in 1956...

He was for gun control, and the National Rifle Association swore revenge. He was an early campaigner against cigarette advertising and sales to teenagers, and the tobacco lobby hated him...

Mike Synar

A liberal proud of his enemies

MIKE Synar, a liberal Democrat who was elected to Congress eight times by a conservative and largely rural district of Oklahoma, has died of brain cancer aged 45...



Synar... ardent crusader

But he lost the Democratic primary to a retired local schoolteacher, campaigning from a small van as the underdog. Synar lost the primary, the schoolteacher lost the election to a Republican, and the National Rifle Association was able to continue its long tradition of intimidating Congressmen...

Letters

John Cole writes: In the late sixties I went to see Hamish Inch (obituary, January 4) perform at the Queen's Hotel, Forfar...

Chris Birch writes: When June Fisher (obituary, December 6) contracted tuberculosis 30 years ago and was told that she should abandon teaching and 'have a quiverful of children'...

Another Day

January 11, 1767: Greatest Snow, & severest Weather I ever remember. Only one Woman said Church...

Fearless Nadia

Lady with the whip hand

FEARLESS Nadia's trajectory from infancy in Edwardian Australia to queen of the Bombay screen seems hardly less fabulous than her roles in films like Miss Frontier Mail, Jungle Goddess, Hurricane Hunt or Miss Robinson...

her in a couple of supporting parts, in 1935 JBE Wadia wrote a starring role for Nadia in Hunterwall (The Lady With the Whip).

The film was shot cheaply, in six weeks. Distributors were discouraged however to see a woman performing Douglas Fairbanks' acrobatic feats, swinging from chandeliers, fencing expertly and taking a bull-whip to villains. The Wadias were obliged to distribute the film themselves...



Role model... Nadia adopts a typical pose in Diamond Queen

seemed to be going out of fashion, and Nadia's career was seriously threatened when she made the mistake of retiring to devote herself to breeding racing thoroughbreds...

glam legend. A great-nephew talented young prod-director Riyad Vincha, made a memorable 74 to her with his 1993 monetary Fearless Nadia: the Hunterwall Story...

David Fegan Mary W (Fearless Nadia), actress, January 8, 1908; died Jan, 1996

Jackdaw



MY FRIEND Diane likes to go unshopping. She goes from store to store, diving in on the purchases and pangs of guilt accumulated over months...

You must especially not believe these words: 'Believe me - I would tell you if it didn't look good.' I am not a returner. I did not consider it a watershed in retailing history when in 1991 Loehmann's ended their No Refunds, No Exchanges policy...

Martini thought I'd be good. It's not just my looks, it's my personality, too. Everyone seems to like me, even people I don't know. I'm always being approached by men and women. They ask me how I keep so slim and tell me what beautiful eyes I've got...

than most English men. A couple of photographers approached me at the casting and gave me the numbers of some model agencies. Although most of them said I'm too short one of them has taken me. Massimiliano Vitalano, 25, air steward.

Richs TWO NEW jeans run into each other's street in Paris wealthy, elegant Gi-venchy ties - much did you pay? 'Oks. '\$500.' 'And replies. 'Idiot!' 'See first. I bought mine and the corner for \$1,000. The 'new Rus', the butt

of the latest crop of Russian jokes, as reported by Newsweek.

New input BET YOU can't stand Points of View, can you? Or the sanctimonious-sounding voice-over artists who read out the letters...

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Accountants urge the Government to get tough with the fraudsters



ACCOUNTANTS yesterday called on the Government to establish an independent fraud advisory panel and to make it easier to prosecute fraudsters in an attempt to counter a crime which is estimated to cost industry £10 billion a year.

Although lawyers hit the headlines, it is estimated that most less than £10,000. This figure has been made easier to commit by technological changes and corporate restructuring which has tended to remove layers of managerial control.

Mr Vyner has been one of two joint managing directors, responsible for trading, marketing and operations across the group, which includes the Homebase and Texas do-it-yourself businesses in the UK and US supermarket operations, as well as the main UK supermarket chain.

Sainsbury top job split but changes too slow for critics

Roger Cowie

SAINSBURY yesterday bowed to savage criticism of its dismal 1995 trading performance by splitting the roles of chairman and chief executive, both held by David Sainsbury.



Adriano... Chief-in-waiting

Under the reorganisation, which takes effect from the beginning of April, responsibilities at the top will be divided according to businesses. Mr Vyner will become chief executive of the UK supermarket business, including the Savacentre hypermarket operation.

He insisted that the reorganisation had been contemplated for some time, and had not been prompted by City criticism. He added that further changes would eventually be made to the board and to the group's management structure, which has been criticised as too top-heavy and bureaucratic.

News in brief

Kingfisher sortie into France again

RETAILING group Kingfisher, which includes Woolworths and Comet, is buying a 30 per cent stake in French furniture and electrical retailer BUT for £59.3 million in cash.

53pc rise for Compass chief

FRANCIS MACKAY, chief executive of Compass, the UK's largest contract caterer, received a 53 per cent rise in his remuneration package for 1995.

Bumper Christmas trading

FURTHER evidence of bumper Christmas trading was provided yesterday when both Whitbread and Next reported that business was significantly up on last year.

Pension geared to truckers

BRITAIN'S lorry drivers will have access to a personal pension plan tailored for their needs. From today, members of the United Road Transport Union will be able to open a plan provided by Scottish Amicable.

EC fines German drugs firm

THE European Commission slapped a £2.4 million fine on Germany's Bayer for breaching European competition laws. It said the chemical giant had restricted sales of its Adalat heart drug in an effort to protect higher prices charged for the product on the British market.

Film box office record

CINEMA box office records were smashed last weekend with takings grossing more than £7.24 million - some £80,000 higher than the previous peak in July 1993 when takings soared thanks to the hype surrounding Jurassic Park.

Japan finds finance minister

JAPAN'S prime minister-in-waiting, Ryutaro Hashimoto, in a final effort to complete his prospective cabinet, yesterday reportedly found a taker for the finance portfolio, a once-coveted post that is now a political hot seat.

Japanese import 30pc for vehicles GM leads drive East

Kevlin Rafferty in Tokyo

FOREIGN carmakers have enjoyed a record year in Japan with sales rising almost 30 per cent to 388,162 vehicles, thanks to the strong yen and increasing acceptance by consumers of foreign products.

nature of the carmarket that the leading importers as America's General Motors, but largely through its Japanese subsidiary Isuzu.

British luxury carmaker makes inroads in US A Rolls is top prescription

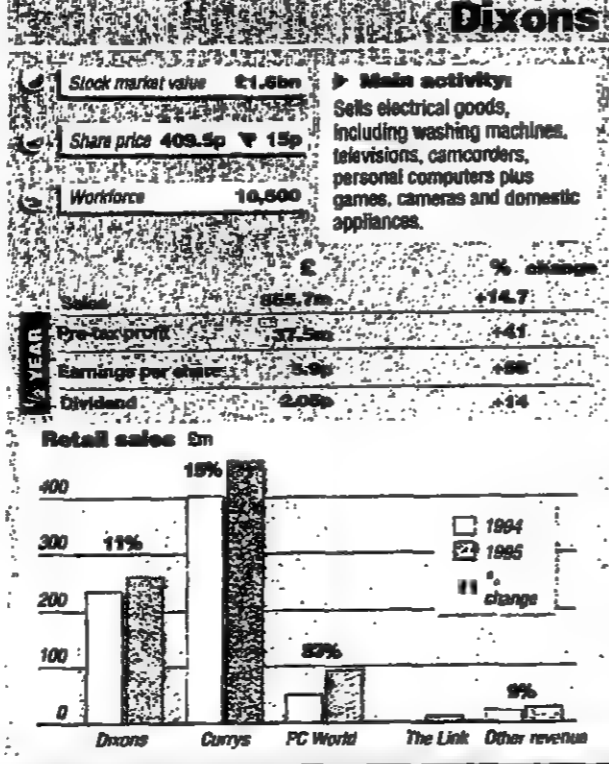
Chris Barrie

LUXURY car company Rolls-Royce put a fresh twist on its marketing yesterday when it revealed that the medical profession was one of its fastest-growing sources of custom.

customers - celebrities and self-made businessmen. The company says the revival in the US economy is boosting the income of the professional classes, bringing the \$154,000 (£99,000) Silver Dawn within reach of many doctors who bought Mercedes or Jaguars in the past.

Rolls-Royce admits that British medical professionals such as a high street NHS pay grades offer a senior house officer up to £22,440 although, with "merit" awards, consultants can earn 70 per cent more.

Booming computer sales put Dixons on a roll



Outlook

Juliane Springgett

THANKS to a mushrooming in the sales of personal computers, Dixons is on a roll. A 41 per cent jump in pre-tax profit half year profits, plus good Christmas trading, indicates that the electrical goods group can expect good 1996.

A further seven stores were opened in the six-month period, bringing the total to 27. More are in the pipeline. Finance Director Robert Shrager said: "We sold an awful lot of personal computers over Christmas, more than we had originally budgeted for."

"Margins on personal computer products are generally around two-thirds of the level of other electrical items at around 30 per cent," said Mr Shrager.

Life is unlikely ever to be easy for Dixons. Its basic business is too volatile because of changing fashions, and too competitive. It is also a group which has had a tendency to produce unwelcome shocks. PC World is a current success, but sales of personal computers could dwindle.

The Underside

Dan Atkinson

HOW appropriate that the ING Baring Novices Chase at Sandown Park should have included among the favourites Simple Arithmetic and Mr Pickpocket.

OLD Lady News (1): That architect-designed millionaire's pad on the north Devon coast - property of Treasury wise-man and Goldman Sachs economist Gwyn Davies - caused consternation for a Bank of England official taking a stroll on a nearby path.

LD Lady News (2): There is talk that the Bank may appoint a journalist to replace Juliette Bealey when she leaves the press office to join the International Monetary Fund in Washington.

High Courts switch

street signs at the court is now claimed by the London Borough of Camden.

BABY-BEANG shoppers despatched to avoid snail-market queues should look forward eagerly to the introduction of white-trolley scanning, promised for the not-too-distant future.

WE WERE, it seems, a little unfair in our item last week on the book Financial Services: Regulating Investment Business, by City solicitor Simon Morris.

QUEENS Most Buses, the hotels soup whose £1 billion property wrote down the early 1990s, pushed it to the brink of collapse, has been reborn as Britain's first environmentally conceived major hotel chain.

AS THE Maxwell trial ground to its end, the Old Bailey satellite court in Chichester Rents appeared to change location during the hearing. Back in June, it had seemed safely gathered into the City of Westminster, home of the

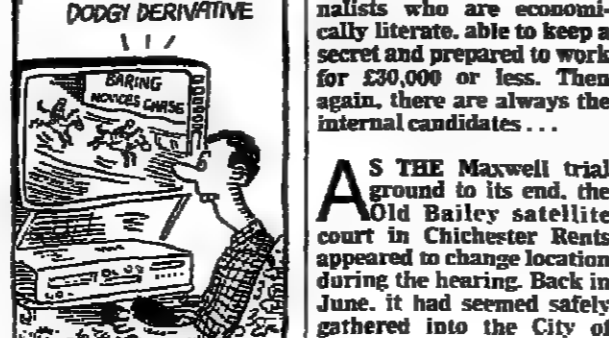
Motorola tumbles as cell phones cost more to make

Mark Tran in New York

SHARES in Motorola fell yesterday after the semiconductor and telecommunications giant announced a surprise 15 per cent drop in fourth-quarter earnings.

Other cellular companies, including Ericsson of Sweden and Nokia of Finland were dragged down. But technology stocks, which took a battering on Tuesday as the Dow fell more than 87 points, bounced back.

Orders for cellular phones fell, reflecting what Motorola called "a moderating growth rate" in subscribers. Fixed costs are expected to rise in 1996 amid continued pressure on margins.



Motorola profits in the quarter fell to \$432 million from \$515 million a year ago. Revenue rose 13 per cent to \$7.3 billion from \$6.45 billion. Profit margins narrowed to 5.9 per cent from 8 per cent and the cost of making cellular phones rose to 61.9 per cent of sales for 1995, up from 61.9 per cent a year ago. Motorola blamed the costs of adding capacity to make semiconductors.

One M... win ma... by logo

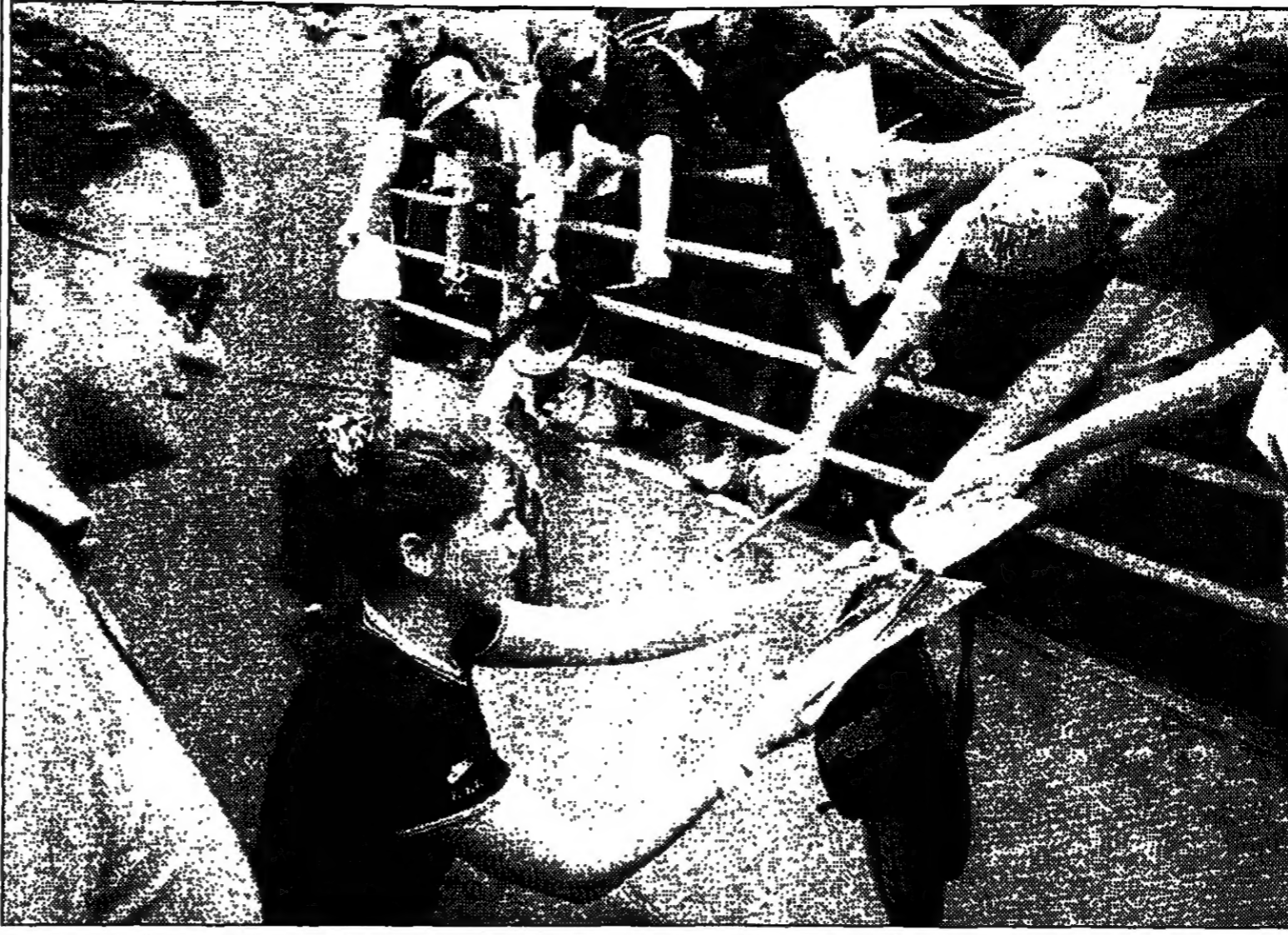
top job
changes
r critics

Racing

One Man's win marred by logo row

JOHN HALES, the owner of One Man, yesterday called for clear guidelines over the company's logo after a "stupid" obscuring of his company's logo after One Man's King George victory last Saturday.

Golden Bear jacket on Saturday and sympathise with George Ward, who puts a lot of money into the sport. "But owners have been under pressure from Customs & Excise to ensure we comply with the guidelines by providing sponsorship under VAT conditions to get our company name to the fore and the BHB must sort it out before the Gold Cup."



Game, set and milder... Seles signs autographs yesterday under the watchful gaze of her personal bodyguard

PHOTOGRAPH BY DAVID GRAY/REUTERS

Tennis
Seles draws Sydney crowd

SECURITY was tight and business was brisk yesterday as Monica Seles played her first match in Australia for three years. A centre court crowd of 7,000 at White City in Sydney saw her beat Dominique Monami of Belgium 6-1, 6-2 in the second round of the Peters International tournament.

The women's joint world No. 1, three times Australian champion, showed glimpses of her clinical best, but the most remarkable feature of the 85-minute match was that she was fouled twice in the opening game and in the second game of the second set.

Rusedski powers on with victory in record time

GREG RUSEDSKI set a tournament record yesterday by speeding to victory in under 20 minutes. The British No. 1 white-washed Carsten Arriens of Germany 6-0, 6-0 in the second round of the Peters International event in Sydney, serving 10 aces and dropping only six points each set.

Rusedski, who had beaten the second-seeded Richard Krajicek in the opening round, was told later that there was no record of a faster win in this tournament in the modern era.

Pete Sampras, who pulled out of this week's Colonial Classic warm-up event at Kooyung with flu, is determined to play in next week's Australian Open, the first grand slam tournament of the season. The world No. 1 arrived in Melbourne yesterday and immediately held a practice session on the centre court at Flinders Park.

Agassi, meanwhile, was in action at Kooyung and the world No. 2 proved his recovery from injury with a hard-fought victory over Pat Rafter of Australia. The 25-year-old American enjoyed a thorough work-out lasting almost three hours before beating Rafter in three tie-break sets.

"I feel healthy and I had no problem with my injury," said Agassi, referring to the strained chest muscle that forced him to miss the United States Davis Cup final win against Russia in December. Jim Courier geared up for his Australian Open campaign by beating the South African Wayne Ferreira in three sets, and Yevgeny Kafelnikov of Russia overpowered Krajicek - a late entry at Kooyung after his defeat by Rusedski in Sydney - in straight sets.

Michael Chang beat a fading Stefan Edberg 6-2, 6-7, 6-4. Sweden's former Wimbledon champion has said this will be his last season on the international circuit.

Wetherby with form guide

- 1.50 Simply Dashing
1.50 Leashwater
1.50 Scotch Bank
2.50 Picklebury
2.50 Call A Day (alt)
2.50 Scotch Bank
2.50 Target Line

Colony Gold to start. 5 Dames Hill. Figures in brackets are the number of horses that have won the race.

Table with columns for race number, time, horse name, jockey, and trainer. Includes races like 1.50 Simply Dashing, 2.50 Picklebury, etc.

Table with columns for race number, time, horse name, jockey, and trainer. Includes races like 1.20 Simply Dashing, 2.50 Picklebury, etc.

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Table with columns for race number, time, horse name, jockey, and trainer. Includes races like 1.50 Simply Dashing, 2.50 Picklebury, etc.

Wincanton runners and riders

- 1.40 Tynegate
1.40 Wincanton
1.40 Wincanton
2.40 Dishes Flyer
2.40 Wincanton
2.40 Wincanton

Colony Gold to start. 5 Dames Hill. Figures in brackets are the number of horses that have won the race.

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Lingfield all-weather Flat card

- 1.00 Star Talent
1.00 Star Talent
1.00 Star Talent
2.00 Star Talent
2.00 Star Talent
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Colony Gold to start. 5 Dames Hill. Figures in brackets are the number of horses that have won the race.

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Table with columns for race number, time, horse name, jockey, and trainer. Includes races like 1.00 Star Talent, 2.00 Star Talent, etc.

Results

- 1.00 Star Talent
1.00 Star Talent
1.00 Star Talent
2.00 Star Talent
2.00 Star Talent
2.00 Star Talent

Colony Gold to start. 5 Dames Hill. Figures in brackets are the number of horses that have won the race.

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14 SPORTS NEWS

The Venables Saga

Candidates for the national firing line

Martin Thorpe on the bookies' favourites for the position of England coach

THE problem with finding a new England manager is not so much who will get the job as who will want it.

favourite Kevin Keegan has made it known that he would be reluctant to go through the mangle.

reimbursed. This time two managers could be found in that position but both can be discounted.



Kevin Keegan



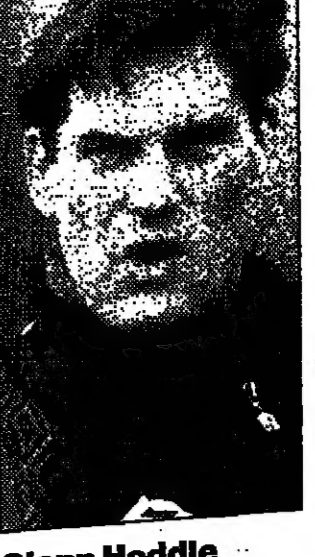
Bryan Robson



Gerry Francis



Ray Wilkins



Glenn Hoddle

THE leading candidate, simply because of his amazing achievements at Newcastle.

IMPECCABLE credentials as former England captain, capped 90 times; learned managerial trade under Alex Ferguson at Manchester United and currently proving wrong those who tipped Middlesbrough for relegation from Premier League.

ANOTHER former England captain. Tottenham's third place in the Premiership has proved he can succeed at top level.

SINGLED out as a leader at the top level when he became Chelsea captain at 18, he is the ultimate "good bloke".

ANOTHER England regular as a player, though not as often as many felt his sublime skills deserved.

COCA-COLA CUP QUARTER-FINALS

Arsenal 2, Newcastle United 0

Benches in uproar as Ginola walks

Russell Thomas

KEVIN KEEGAN may be the people's choice to succeed Terry Venables, but Arsenal inflicted a dent in the Newcastle manager's reputation with victory through Ian Wright's fierce shot just before half-time and another a minute from the end at Highbury last night.

after injury of Bergkamp, Platt and Bould, a triumvirate central to their club's aspirations this season.

Just outside Arsenal's area, Ginola's despair was soon shared by all his colleagues, especially Srinieck.



Star in stripes... Newcastle's Steve Watson finds a few inches on Arsenal's Nigel Winterburn at Highbury last night

Aston Villa 1, Wolverhampton Wanderers 0

Villa stretched for record

Stephen Bierley

HAVING taken two managers, Graham Taylor and Bobby Downes, to get this far in the Coca-Cola Cup, Wolverhampton Wanderers finally departed under boss No. 3 Mark McGhee.

send: both were unmarked. Wolves were never going to be overwhelmed. A lot has happened since the dark, dead days of the Taylor regime, and the players now bristle with purpose and self-belief, working within a system in which they obviously have total confidence.

middle and hit a shot which took a deflection and almost deflected Bonnich, who could not hold on to the ball.

Results

Soccer

COCA-COLA CUP

Quarter-finals

Aston Villa (H) 1, Wolverhampton (A) 0

Leeds (H) 2, Reading (A) 0

Manchester City (H) 2, Ipswich (A) 0

Sheff Wed (H) 1, Charlton (A) 0

Sheff Wed (H) 1, Charlton (A) 0

Sheff Wed (H) 1, Charlton (A) 0

Sheff Wed (H) 1, Charlton (A) 0

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Sheff Wed (H) 1, Charlton (A) 0

Sheff Wed (H) 1, Charlton (A) 0

Sheff Wed (H) 1, Charlton (A) 0

Leeds United 2, Reading 1

Speed peps up Leeds

Ian Ross

IT IS more by good luck than judgment that Leeds United this morning find themselves in the last four of the cup.

But for the defensive shortcomings which have become such a prominent feature of their football in recent weeks, Reading would have emerged from an insipid tie with at least a replay to boast of.

A draw was the least the visitors deserved on a night when fortune was to favour the aristocrats rather than the artisans.

Leeds supporters have always enjoyed voting with their feet and the sorry sight of floodlights reflecting off thousands of vacant seats said much about a season of so far unfulfilled promise.

It could have gone worse for Yorkshire's premier club when 14 minutes later Morley intercepted Wetherall's awful crossfield pass and scampered goalwards.

Snowline

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Drug-test defender Stanislaus is suspended by Leyton Orient

DOGER STANISLAUS, the Leyton Orient defender charged with misconduct by the Football Association after a drug test, has been suspended on full pay by the club.

The Brazilian striker Jaridel flew in to Glasgow last night to discuss a move from the South American champions Gremlin to Rangers. The Scottish champions are likely to raise the £2-£3 million fee by selling Oleg Salenko.

Leeds United 2, Reading 1

Speed peps up Leeds

Ian Ross

IT IS more by good luck than judgment that Leeds United this morning find themselves in the last four of the cup.

Norwich City 1, Birmingham City 1

Gunn penalty save keeps Norwich hoping

Peter Layton

NORWICH and Birmingham did the Endleigh League proud in an epic tale of two cities cup ties that came close to matching the classic novel for excitement and emotion.

Norwich were without a win for nine games and it showed in their lack of confidence and composure early on. Without their first-choice midfielders Crook, Johnson and Goss through injury, they looked to the on-loan Liverpool play-maker Jan Molby for inspiration.

Norwich came out in far more determined mood in the second half and O'Neill almost snatched the lead with a snap shot that startled Sansome did well to parry.

Liann Daish's header from an corner flew narrowly over the crossbar, the giant forward Francis shot wide of the post and Hunt tested Bryan Gunn with a fierce fifth-minute free-kick as Birmingham signalled their determination to reach the semi-final for the first time since 1967.

In the 18th minute Norwich's skipper Jon Newsome clearly handled a cross from Richard Forsyth, but Gunn dived full-length to save Hunt's penalty kick.

© The Guardian

سكنا من الامل

Australians welcome back Seles, page 13
Coca-Cola Cup semi-finals, page 14

Scotland shuffle their forwards, page 15
IAAF close to Modahl decision, page 15

Sports Guardian

ENGLAND SOCCER COACH BOWS TO THE PRESSURES OF IMPENDING LEGAL ACTIONS



Weight off his mind... Terry Venables leaves Lancaster Gate after making official his decision to stand down before qualifying begins for the next World Cup PHOTOGRAPH: TOM JENKINS

Venables spares FA blushes

David Lacey examines why the England coach gave himself no option but to stand down after the European Championship

TERRY VENABLES will quit as England coach after the European Championship in order to spend more time with his lawyers, leaving the Football Association to reconsider the wisdom of appointing him in the first place. There is also the small matter of finding someone to take over the squad for the next World Cup. Having intimated to the FA before Christmas, and shortly before the draw for Euro '96 was made in Birmingham, that he did not want to remain in charge of the England squad for the 1996 World Cup qualifiers, Venables has now confirmed his departure.

Last night he said he had decided to step down after the European Championship to save the FA embarrassment. He confirmed that the weight of litigation had been behind the decision. "I felt that in the circumstances what I've got ahead could be problematical," he said. "We would have a World Cup qualifying game around October or November and I would be in court for several weeks. I think it's maybe a bit of an embarrassment to the FA but in the circumstances I have made the decision and it gives them time to get somebody else."

It is clear that after his courtroom experiences so far, Venables realised he could not go into the next World Cup serving two benches - England team and High Court. When questioned yesterday about the choice of Graham Taylor's successor, Kelly said that anybody could apply hindsight, and he added: "The vast majority of you here today applauded the decision at the time." From a

coach for two years there has been no competitive yardstick, apart from the Umbro Cup, by which his international qualities can be judged. The European Championship will prove the point one way or the other. Remembering how successful England were in the 1990 World Cup, which they entered knowing that Bobby Robson was about to take a job with PSV Eindhoven, yesterday's news may even be the happiest English omen for Euro '96 so far. Venables, with nothing much to lose from a footballing point of view, may be all the better for it.

he has enhanced may feel the need to give him a decent send-off. As to the next England coach, who knows? The bookmakers dusted off the familiar betting list once Venables' impending departure was confirmed, with Kevin Keegan at the top followed by Bryan Robson, who is part of Venables' backroom team, Howard Wilkinson, Gerry Francis and Ray Wilkins. Glenn Hoddle's credentials are bound to put him among the front runners as well.

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Age Range: 18-29 □ 30-39 □ 40-49 □ 50-59 □ 60+ □
Brand smoked most often: □ Flake □ Ready Rubbed
IMPORTANT: Please sign that you are a smoker aged 18 or over.
X _____ X
Post to: Pipe Smoking Survey, FREEPOST LON 6283, London E3 3BR.

win the European Championship. "I don't think it's possible to continue after Euro '96," he added. "Obviously I would want to leave the job on a successful note and I will do everything in my power to make it successful."

Venables felt that removing speculation about his England position would enable him to concentrate on the job in hand. To the last he was pursued by querulous headlines, with some of yesterday's back pages suggesting that he was about to challenge the FA to back him or sack him. In fact an extension to his present contract was never seriously discussed. Kelly admitted that Venables' decision had not come as a total surprise. "It's sad that a highly valued, highly regarded and very inventive football coach, who's done well, should feel it necessary to reach the decision he has done," he said.

coach for two years there has been no competitive yardstick, apart from the Umbro Cup, by which his international qualities can be judged. The European Championship will prove the point one way or the other. Remembering how successful England were in the 1990 World Cup, which they entered knowing that Bobby Robson was about to take a job with PSV Eindhoven, yesterday's news may even be the happiest English omen for Euro '96 so far. Venables, with nothing much to lose from a footballing point of view, may be all the better for it.

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'If left alone he'd have been OK'

IAN STOTT
FA councillor, seen as being anti-Venables
"I am on his side. I was a very strong proponent of his selection in the first place and that's all my support then and I still think he is the right person for the job."
FRED VENABLES
Father
"If people had left him alone to do his job then he'd have been okay. The England job was everything but if he can't get on with it then he'll just say 'Bye-bye'."
GRAHAM TAYLOR
Former England manager
"If there was anything outside of being able to fully concentrate on the job in hand, I think it would be very difficult,

perhaps impossible, to do the job in hand."
CRAIG BROWN
Scotland manager
"I have the utmost respect for Terry as a coach and that's all that matters; I am not concerned about off the field."
ALAN BALL
Manchester City manager
"It's a shame for English football. You need continuity at the top level as you do at club level and to keep chopping and changing does not do anybody any good."
GRAHAM KELLY
FA chief executive
"It's sad that a highly regarded and very inventive football coach who has done well should feel it necessary to reach the decision he has."

BOBBY GOULD
Wales manager
"The circumstances are that the FA knew what was happening when they took him on and knew the situation all along."
TONY KERSHAW
Chairman National Fed of Supporters' Clubs
"I am sickened by what has happened and I know I speak for the majority of football fans. I don't know anyone who has a bad word to say about Venables and the work he is doing."
KATE HOEY
Labour MP
"The decision of the England coach not to seek a new contract is in the best interests of himself and English football."

Out of a job and spoiling for the fight

Martin Thorpe on the struggles ahead once the coach has served his notice

WHEN Graham Taylor was appointed England manager, Terry Venables was not even on the shortlist. When Venables was mooted as Taylor's successor two years ago, the Football Association's chairman Sir Bert Millichip said: "Over my dead body."

On both occasions the English game's governing body was saying, in effect, that Venables was too much of a wide-boy businessman to risk in the job. Now those doubts have come back to haunt it. But just as the need for a winning England side forced the FA to change its mind over Venables, so his desire to clear his name has changed his mind over the importance of the one job he always wanted. Venables is out to prove his innocence and, such is his immense determination, anyone in the way had better watch out.

Of course the FA knew what it was taking on when it hired Venables. His peers deemed him the best man for the job and the FA's doubts over his business life were reflected in his title of "coach" instead of the more ambassadorial "manager". But those concerns had been overtaken by a more pressing need after Taylor: to create a successful England team. For various political reasons the European governing body Uefa was on the FA's back to improve the performances of a side that had just failed to qualify for the World Cup. Venables was revered as a coach and immediately available.

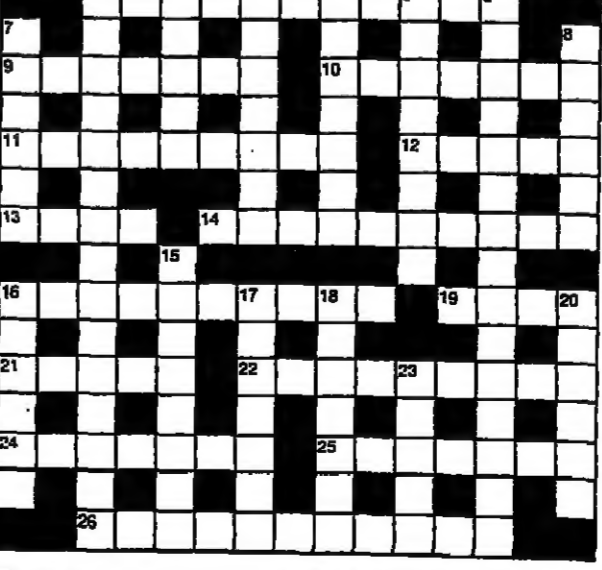
The FA bit the bullet and hoped it would not explode in its face. It did not have to wait long to find out. Venables was appointed on January 28 1994. On January 30 news emerged that Venables was being investigated by the Department of Trade and Industry. The sight of Venables leaving a court to attend an England team announcement became a reality, a juxtaposition that did nothing for the game's image nor Venables' ability to concentrate on the job or, indeed, on defending himself in the courts. The non-football distractions have been numerous; civil actions for the recovery

of alleged unpaid bills, non-stop allegations in the media, disappearing dance floors, bungling inquiries and now DTI proceedings to bar him as a company director. Now he has given himself the time and space to prove his innocence and to take on his most substantial foe: Alan Sugar. When Sugar dismissed Venables as chief executive of Tottenham he may have felt that, like many people, the then darling of White Hart Lane would go quietly, without a whimper. He did not know Terry Venables. Venables is not only proud but obstinate. He feels he has been wronged in a big way and is out to prove it. "People could say, 'Right, I'm not going to fight any more,'" says Venables, "but people would say, 'Oh, he's guilty.' I've been brought up to fight my corner when I think things are going wrong. I have a fighting spirit.

The alternative would be to throw it in. It would be cheaper perhaps but I've got to live with myself the rest of my life."

Guardian Crossword No 20,546

Set by Chifonle



- Across**
- 1 Hold no brief for visit by conductor (4,7)
 - 9 Class acquires butcher's pan (7)
 - 10 Inebriate leftie is back in the playing area (7)
 - 11 Appar to escort quiet primate (4,5)
 - 12 Get to deliver a sermon - but not quietly (5)
 - 13 Archer turns back chap (4)
 - 14 Doomed traders contrived to be slack beforehand (3-7)
 - 16 Where crooked landlords should be (6,4)
 - 19 Grow dizzy initially in some sultry West Indian motel (4)
 - 21 Force the little devil to back the French (5)
 - 22 Revolutionary is renting us accommodation (8)
- Down**
- 24 For example, Bob's hard manner hurt one's feelings (7)
 - 25 Instrument bore hot alloy (7)
 - 26 Period of crisis is of, perhaps, future significance (5,6)

SOLUTION 20,546

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
7																									
9																									
11																									
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16																									
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24																									

- 8 Mythical monster took cover in plain (6)
- 15 Standpoint endlessly sustained by a vessel of the church (8)
- 16 Spoil opening bats match (6)
- 17 React to black, tough tissue in meat - cut the top off (7)
- 18 Teacher turns up with German dish (7)
- 20 The scheme satisfied the carrier (6)
- 23 Steward makes first wife trail about (5)

Solution tomorrow

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SMOKING CAUSES HEART DISEASE
Chief Medical Officer's Warning

Through the media we achieve a fantasy of closeness. We see everything. We watch. We observe. We know so much about them that it's scary. We should not be shocked, therefore, that occasionally some loony goes too far.

Suzanne Moore

صوتنا من الامل